



THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

FRE 218
3 credits (45 contact hours)

FRANCE, FRANCOPHONIE AND MUSIC

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is intended for students who have completed the equivalent of two to three semesters of college level French.

Intensive focus on linguistic and cultural comprehension as well as oral and written expression through music in France and throughout the Francophone world.

Class is taught in French.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The different musical selections chosen, from France or other French-speaking countries (la Francophonie), will help improve the traditional linguistic skills acquired in a typical language class: written and oral comprehension, vocabulary and grammar acquisition, linguistic analysis and ultimately the reproduction of these skills through oral (debates and presentations) and written expression.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the learning period of 3 hours per week over the semester, students will know, understand and be capable of:

- Demonstrating their perspective of general culture with their knowledge of the classics of French popular song – singers and their songs – which make up the native speaker's collective cultural tradition.
- Recognizing an artist's chronological period and native country.
- Differentiating the various levels of language usage (formal, standard and familiar).
- Demonstrating their marked improvement in written and oral comprehension.
- Demonstrating their marked improvement in written and oral expression.
- Enunciating their enriched vocabulary and grammar.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

The class will focus on the biggest hits of Francophone song (Quebec, Africa, etc.) from yesterday and today (from pre-world war to now), arranged in different sequences, each having their own theme.

Based on the listening and analysis of the language, the class will discover and compare how the themes of each sequence are treated, how the language has evolved and how the songs are representative of their time period.

Content and Course Progression

One sequence consists of many courses

- Each sequence contains:
- One or more current songs
- One or more older songs
- A typical course might have:
- Vocabulary linked to the theme (review and development)
- Grammar (review and in-depth analysis)
- Group activities (i.e. research a specific lexicon based on a music video)
- Individual activities (i.e. structural exercises)
- Oral expression (debates, opinions)
- Written expression (creative writing)
- Oral comprehension (listen to the song without the words)
- Written comprehension (questions on comprehension of the language)
- Throughout each sequence, oral presentations – in groups or individual – will be done on a song or on an artist linked to the theme.

COURSE MATERIALS

- CD's, recordings
- Song texts
- Music videos linking the songs to image
- Internet sites (artists' official sites, music sites, Wikipedia...)

EVALUATION AND GRADING

Oral presentations: 30%

Oral Participation 30 %

Homework: 10%

Mid-semester exam: 15%

Final exam: 15%

Assessment:

- Oral Presentation grade is based on a song or an artist presented.
- The participation grade concerns all participation in class.

Homework:

- Exercices in reworking the vocabulary
- Structural exercices
- Written compositions
- Research on artists
- Mid-semester and final exams

Oral comprehension:

- Listen to a new song whose theme has been discussed in class with other songs, with comprehension
- questions or vocabulary to complete.

Written Comprehension:

- Press article on a song or on an artist, with comprehension questions

Culture:

- Learn to place artists in specific periods (chronology) and specific places (country)

Written Expression :

- Write a presenting, developed article or critique on a theme, an artist or a song or creative writing.

Basic rules

The class will be conducted in French. Dictionaries are allowed, even recommended. Internet translations are completely forbidden.

The class is not a lecture course and its success depends largely on students' commitment. You are expected to arrive on time, have your homework completed, learn the vocabulary and grammar studied in class, even if the professor does not remind you each time to do so. Homework should be neat and handed in at the specified date. In case of lateness, grades will be lowered a point for each late day. Should the homework not be handed in, the grade will be 0.

In the case of plagiarism or "cut-and-paste" from the internet, a grade of 0 will be attributed.

As the course is also a discussion class, all should be prepared to participate in the debates proposed during class and do everything possible to take part.

ATTENDANCE

One of the primary requirements this semester is that you attend class. Attendance and participation will be part of your final grade: the grade is reduced one-half letter for each unexcused absence above two. Being late two times is considered as an absence. For example, if your average grade is 16 (A-) but you have three unexcused absences, your final grade will be 15 (B+)

In case of absence, students are responsible for getting the course material (by asking another student or asking the professor) and for making up all exercises done during class time.

In case of professor's absence, it may be necessary to make up lost class time Friday afternoon or Wednesday at 12:00. "Make-up" classes will be announced at least one week in advance; for questions of attendance, exams, work due, etc. These are considered normal course meetings. Thus all students are expected to be present.

SÉQUENCES PRÉVUES

- Les villes (en France et dans le monde)
- La famille
- Les pays, les voyages, les vacances
- L'amour
- La société, les chansons à texte.

L'ordre des séquences n'est pas définitif et peut changer au cours du semestre.